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THE NEW SUNPORT LOGO

Representing the strength of flight and the spirit of the Southwest. *Story on Page 8.*

We welcome you to the first issue of **on course**, the Albuquerque International Sunport newsletter. Here you'll find valuable information about upcoming events and projects as well as features on what makes the airport as unique as our city. With our new observation deck, fine restaurants, art collection and regular cultural events, we're becoming more than just a center for transportation: We're a reflection of the community. We welcome your input and ideas for this publication.

MAYOR SEES OPPORTUNITIES

When Mayor Jim Baca looks at Albuquerque International Sunport, he sees several things:

- An architectural gem ■ A hub of New Mexico's economy, supporting tourism and economic development
- Opportunity ■ A chance for city government to improve the quality of life for citizens living near the airport

"The city shoulders a large responsibility with this airport," Mayor Baca says. "The Sunport really does support many of the state's industries."

That responsibility opens many avenues for development — but this mayor thinks quality comes before exploiting development opportunities.

"First, we've got a beautiful airport — it's unique," says the mayor, who traveled frequently in stints as state Lands Director and as head of the federal Bureau of Land Management. "I've been in all the major airports and this is by far the nicest — everywhere else is glass and steel."

The mayor says he won't allow the airport to become overcommercialized. For example, some airports have advertising on escalator steps and restroom stalls — that won't be happening in Albuquerque.

With the opening of Sunport Boulevard, much development is centering on the airport, the mayor says. That development must be carefully planned with quality-of-life considerations, he adds.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR JIM BACA



Mayor Jim Baca at a recent Sunport musical performance.

"I'm enthused about all the plans being developed at the airport," Baca says. He supports moving rental car centers off-site and expanding shuttle services. "We need some sort of better system, whether it be financed through private or public means."

Another part of the master plan calls for closing the north-south runway and perhaps building a new terminal and airport hotel. The mayor would like to see that happen, too.

"I really would like to close that runway —most residents of the Southeast Heights would benefit," he says. "I think it will be closed at some point."

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INSIDE

Sunport starts new

Concert Series

Mariachi musicians delight travelers and locals alike with a concert in the Great Hall. The concert was the first in a planned series of cultural events. *Story on Page 3.*





SPOTLIGHT

Taste of the town

New eateries offer quality and distinction

Both travelers and area residents are taking time to dine at the Albuquerque International Sunport's new eateries.

Visitors needing a caffeine boost or fresh baked goods can stop at Black Mesa Coffee Co. in the main terminal's 3rd Level.

Those with a larger appetite — and a little more time on their hands — can take a seat at Garduño's of Mexico Restaurant and Cantina next door. One of seven Garduño's restaurants in Albuquerque, it offers a rustic atmosphere, reasonably priced meals and award-winning margaritas. Swift service and free parking validation have encouraged many area businesses and residents to dine here.

After catching panoramic views from the Sunport's new observation deck, visitors can stop to eat at the food court beneath. La Hacienda Mexican Restaurant, Pizzeria Express, Baskin Robbins Ice-Cream Shop and Comida Buena Gourmet Deli and Bakery offer something for nearly every taste.

The Sunport—one of the best places to eat in Albuquerque!

A, and new snack bars in Concourses B and E offer quick eats for travelers.

Sports fans and microbrew connoisseurs have much to be happy about. Route 66 Microbrewery, in the main terminal, features 10 beers on tap and 20 bottled beers, a full menu including shrimp cocktails, two big-screen and 14 smaller TVs, and an enclosed smoking area.

Winners Sports Lounge features a Southwestern motif and New Mexico sports memorabilia, as well as several large-screen sets.

BLACK MESA COFFEE CO.



GARDUÑOS RESTAURANT



Black Mesa Coffee Co.
Garduño's Restaurant and Cantina
La Hacienda Mexican Restaurant
Puerto del Sol Cantina

Pizzeria Express
Baskin Robbins Ice Cream Shop
Comida Buena Gourmet Deli & Bakery
Concourse E Snack Bar

Quizno's Classic Subs
Winners Sports Lounge
Route 66 Microbrewery



Concert series enlivens arts program

Sounds of the Sunport



"The Sunport is more just a place to catch a plane, take off and land," Arts Administrator Regina Chavez Chapman believes. "It's a community space for culture and art." And a place for music, with the introduction of the Sunport Serenades concert series. Mariachi Nuevo Sonido was the first to play the Great Hall in late August.

Forty concerts are scheduled through the end of June, ranging from flamenco to folk to jazz. They're booked through local arts organization Magnifico! "We put out a call for entries, asked for a demo tape, photograph and short biography, and received tremendous response," Chapman says. "A committee reviews the entries and makes recommendations, and we make the final decision."

What does the Sunport look for, besides great music? "We want groups who are experienced in playing for the public," Chapman says. "We're not looking for Hollywood showpieces — just musicians interested in giving back to the community."

The format should be equally enjoyable for patrons who listen for 3 minutes or 30, she says. "Most people have planes and taxis to catch; others have time to sit and listen. We want to provide a pleasant experience for everyone." The two-hour concerts have been held in the Great Hall, beneath the observation deck, and on the 3rd floor.

So far, she says, "the response has been marvelous."

We see a lot of smiles and thumbs-up from passengers." One physician contacted Chapman to say he was delighted to hear classical music as he walked through the airport.

Albuquerque's not alone in combining ambiance with air travel — Denver has introduced music as well.

The concert series — as well as the strength of the Sunport's overall arts program — has drawn national attention. Representatives from Chicago O'Hare and the Austin airport recently met with Chapman to exchange ideas. "We're really a role model nationally when it comes to arts and culture at the airport," she says.

PENDING ARTS PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- Displaying art in the soon-to-be renovated old terminal building.
- Establishing a display for changing exhibits by local artists — be they Watercolor Society members or high school students.
- Creating a display of historic aviation photos and mementos contributed by community members.
- Restoring the Curtiss-design pusher biplane, which now hangs above the second-floor entrance. "It's the only plane from that era (1911-14) to have almost all of its original parts," Chapman says.
- Setting up a booth to introduce visitors to Albuquerque's art scene. "Many people, as soon as they get here, drive up to Taos or Santa Fe to buy art. That's fine, but we want them to know what Albuquerque has to offer," Chapman says. The booth would feature information on local galleries as well as artists whose work is displayed in the airport.

Check with the Aviation Department, 842-4366, if you want to know dates and times for future Sunport Serenade events.

NEWS BRIEFS

Jay Czar named new Sunport Director



Jay Czar has been named Albuquerque's director of Aviation. He has served as director of the airport since December 1997.

Czar has two decades' experience in city government, having held management roles in Parks and General Services, Public Works and Personnel Services. Most recently he served as deputy chief administrative officer.

"My top priority is to provide the highest level of customer service, and give visitors a positive first impression of Albuquerque," Czar says. He'll aim to manage the Sunport efficiently and cost-effectively, while planning for future expansion.

Look for more news on Czar in future issues of On Course.

Advisory Board elects officers

The Airport Advisory Board has re-elected David Scott as Board Chairman and elected Anthony B. Gallegos as Vice-Chair for a one-year term.

Scott, a retired Kirtland Air Force Base Commander, was Chief Operating Officer of United Way of Central New Mexico in 1996 and has served on numerous Albuquerque area boards and business associations. He has been a member of the KAFB Retention Task Force and the Albuquerque Foreign Trade Zone Task Force.

The Airport Advisory Board is a group of nine volunteers appointed by the Mayor with City Council approval. The Board serves in an advisory capacity, providing recommendations to the Director of Aviation, Mayor and City Council.

Monthly meetings are open to the public and are held the first Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the Sunport's Aviation Department Conference Room.

Current board members serving three-year terms are Linda Olmsted, Chris Lackmann, Gale Doyel, Sivlois Reeves, G. Mark Yarbrough, Ernest "Skip" Eaton and Mayor Baca's first appointee to the Board, Jon D. Word.

Growing up,
Donna Martin
remembers watching
planes from the Sunport's
outdoor observation deck.

Now, when she and her children visit Albuquerque from Chicago, they walk up to a beautiful glass-enclosed observation area to watch takeoffs and landings.

Martin's happy to relive those memories, and to give her children memories of their own.



*"The deck is so unique,"
she says, "and the planes
are fun to watch."*



MUST SEE



The new 4,569-square-foot deck offers panoramic views of all the Sunport's runways, as well as areas to the east, south and west. Visitors can listen in on air traffic control tower broadcasts.

There's a dining and conference area, and comfortable couches and chairs. The flagstone-style floor, potted cacti and accents of color give the deck a Southwestern flair.

Visitors can either climb stairs to the deck, or take the lighted glass elevator.

On a typical afternoon, families gather in front of the 1,750 square feet of glass to chat and watch planes go by. Business travelers lounge in leather armchairs, catching up on their reading. Meantime, at a table under a skylight, two women conduct a job interview.

The deck is an ideal place for travelers to lounge — and for families to spend a leisurely afternoon. "The deck was built with the community, especially children, in mind," says Terminal Operations Manager Mario Aguirre. "We'd love to see even more people spending an afternoon up here."



Both children and adults are entranced by the view from the observation deck

THE OBSERVATION

DECK IS LOCATED

BETWEEN CONCOURSES

A & B ON THE

AIRPORT'S THIRD LEVEL



THE OBSERVATION DECK TAKES OFF



Outside view of the Sunport's observation deck



ALBUQUERQUE

AVERAGES MORE THAN

600 TAKEOFFS AND

LANDINGS DAILY.

The Sunport offers non-stop service to more than 30 cities, including Chicago, Cincinnati, Minneapolis, Orlando and San Francisco.



Study aims to reduce noise impact



Although it's busy and getting busier as a hub of regional commerce, Albuquerque International Sunport is giving its neighbors doses of quiet now and in the future as a result of a massive 18-month noise study.

Older, louder planes known as "Stage 2" aircraft are now encouraged to turn south, rather than north, when making a departure off the east-west runway.

"If the weather and traffic conditions are right, many of the planes departing east can fly over non-populated areas rather than over the city," says Ryk Dunkelberg, who directed the Sunport's noise study.

Other ideas to further reduce noise include measuring noise on a year-round basis, installing noise-monitoring equipment, identifying a person to deal specifically with noise issues, and closing the north-south runway altogether.

The Sunport would conduct an environmental assessment before making a decision to close the runway, Dunkelberg says.

The study also will make recommendations to the City Planning Division regarding future development patterns around the airport.

The proposals grew out of the Aircraft Noise and Land Use Compatibility Study, "which is a voluntary effort airports undertake to reduce existing and future noise levels," according to Dunkelberg.

"We're nearing final approval" on the lengthy study, which began in December 1996, says Dunkelberg. A final public hearing was held in early November, at which time Mayor Jim Baca directed year-round monitoring of noise levels. The completed proposal has been submitted to City Council and the FAA.

The study entailed monitoring noise levels of various types of aircraft, developing computerized contours to predict future noise levels, studying flight patterns, and gathering input from citizens, the tower and Aircraft Control Center.

Public input has been key to the process, Dunkelberg says. Community members served on the advisory committee, comprised of representatives of the FAA, neighborhood association representatives, airport tenants, local and regional agencies, airlines and the military. A kickoff meeting and three public open houses were held to gather citizen input.

Dunkelberg says he personally received and responded to dozens of letters, faxes, e-mail messages and phone calls from community members.

One bright spot is that new regulations are requiring quieter planes. Federal law requires those older, louder Stage 2 planes to be phased out or outfitted with "hush kits" by 2000, Dunkelberg says.

IDEAS TO FURTHER REDUCE NOISE

Year-round measuring of noise

Identifying a person to deal specifically with noise issues

Closing the north-south runway altogether

Older, louder planes encouraged to turn south, rather than north

***Albuquerque International Sunport
is giving its neighbors doses of quiet
NOW and in the future***



*6.5 million passengers
crossed through the
airport in 1996...*

...12 million by 2015

ROOM TO MOVE

Forecasting the future is never easy — but that's the job the Albuquerque International Sunport has in store as it updates the Airport Master Plan.

One thing is already clear — the Sunport needs to begin the process for adding more terminal space. Such a program could take seven years or longer before an additional terminal is actually built.

Anyone who's been in the already-bustling terminal during peak hours has had to contend with scarce parking and curb space. The terminal will become even more crowded in the years to come, according to airport forecasts. In 1996, some 6.5 million passengers crossed through an airport designed for 8 million. The number of passengers is expected to jump to nearly 12 million by 2015.

To account for this growth, the Sunport is developing plans for a new terminal "turned to the north" and a new parking structure on land currently used for the north-south runway. In addition, the airport already is moving to develop new rental car areas, says Dennis Parker, the assistant director for Operations and Maintenance.

These possibilities and others are detailed in the upcoming Master Plan Update. The Update, it should be stressed, simply is a planning document at this point — no decisions have been made.

Planning for such a comprehensive project as a new terminal could take up to three years, with "four to six variations examined for feasibility, constructability and cost," Parker says. Design and construction may take another four years, so it's important for the Sunport to look at possibilities far in advance.

*The Sunport's
parking garage*



The project will be directed by a team of four consultants, some already chosen by the airport and approved by the City Council:

- ≡ *A master planner*
- ≡ *A design consultant*
- ≡ *A financial consultant*
- ≡ *An environmental consultant*

The Master Plan allows for "short, immediate and long-term planning on a 20-year horizon," says Parker.

Because of the difficulty in seeing that far into the future, the plan is a "living document," updated about every five years.

The 1985 update, for example, provided for the 1986 terminal expansion. From the 1994 update grew renovations on northwest-southwest runway 3-21 and reconstruction of east-west 8-26, which doubled the amount of possible takeoffs and landings.

"All the Sunport's development projects have been driven by the need to accommodate more passengers," says Parker.

July

1 9 9 8	1 9 9 7
Passenger total	596,632
Southwest Airlines	262,356
Delta	75,208
American	59,541
United	55,018
America West	39,166
TWA	37,048
Continental	27,687
Mesa	16,629
Northwest	15,935
Frontier	5,640
Skywest	2,404

August

1 9 9 8	1 9 9 7
Passenger total	571,155
Southwest Airlines	248,271
Delta	71,737
American	56,334
United	58,694
America West	36,023
TWA	34,560
Continental	26,549
Mesa	15,555
Northwest	14,274
Frontier	6,915
Skywest	2,243

September

1 9 9 8	1 9 9 7
Passenger total	487,078
Southwest	213,115
Delta	64,123
United	52,336
American	48,041
America West	31,606
TWA	28,579
Continental	23,994
Mesa	14,916
Frontier	4,823
Northwest	3,554
Skywest	1,991



RICK JOHNSON & CO. DONATES LOGO



The new Albuquerque International Sunport logo, which makes its debut in this newsletter, is a gift from the state's largest advertising agency, Rick Johnson and Co.

"All of us at the Sunport want to thank Rick and Debbie Johnson for donating this work," says Aviation Director Jay Czar. "We're very excited about our new symbol."

The logo was the inspiration of Lisa Graff, art director at the agency. The thunderbird, she says, represents more than flight – "It's a symbol of New Mexican culture."

The style of the logo "reflects the airport's architecture and pueblo deco design," Graff says. She utilized airport colors and a traditional typeface to communicate the airport's timeless heritage.

The logo will be phased in as signs and literature need replacing, Czar says, noting an immediate conversion of all stationery, signs and other material would be too expensive.

MAYOR SEES OPPORTUNITIES

(Continued from cover)

The mayor also sees the airport helping with economic development in a project he is particularly fond of—Mesa del Sol. He first envisioned the vast planned community on the airport's south side when he was state Lands Director in the 1980s. "The Sunport certainly can be an advantage for economic development at Mesa del Sol," the mayor says, noting many if not most companies look at air service when deciding on new locations.

While he feels Albuquerque has excellent air service for a city its size, there is one area he would like to see improved: flights to and from Mexico. "There's really no reason for us not to have it, and we'll keep working on it."

MAYOR
JIM BACA

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
LAWRENCE RAE

DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
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